

Louisiana Crab Task Force Meeting

Keith Watts, Chairman

Tuesday, December 3, 1:30 p.m.
UNO Advanced Technology Center
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 210
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

AGENDA

I. Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call and introduction of guests

Voting Members

Present	Absent
Eric Blanchard	Kim Alfonso
Chalin Delaune	Eddie Chagnard
Laquita Meek	
Kernny Comardelle	
Trudy Luke	
Pete Gerica	
James Bergeron	
Keith Watts	
Donnye Bourn	
Rodney Parfait	

Non-Voting Members

Present	Absent
Julie Anderson	Rex Caffey
Alan Matherne	
Carl Britt	
Dr. Jack Isaacs	
Jubal Marceaux in for Col. Jeff Mayne	
Melissa Trosclair	

Guests

Dana Parfait-Dulac Band of Chitimacha-Choctaws
Shirell Parfait Dardar- Dulac Band of Chitimacha-Choctaws

Chad Hebert-LDWF

Jeff Marx-LDWF

Katie Semon-LDWF

Allison West-LDWF

John Fallon-Audubon Nature Institute

Erin Brown-LDWF

Twyla Herrington- Sea Grant

Ashford Rosenberg-Audubon Nature Institute

Laura Picariollo- Audubon Nature Institute

Donovan Burke- LDWF

Kristin McLaren-LDWF

III. Approval of meeting Agenda and August 29, 2013 minutes

Motion by Pete Gerica to approve August 29 meeting minutes, second by Chalin Delaune. Motion adopted.

Motion by Pete Gerica to accept amended agenda, second by Chalin Delaune. Motion adopted.

IV. Financial Report

Ashley Roth reported that current balance is \$46,928.50 Motion by Pete Gerica to accept the financial report, second by Eric Blanchard. Motion adopted.

V. Old Business

- A. Derelict Crab Trap-Commission approved notice of intent in September. Ten day crab closure in February.
- B. Soft shell crab shedding grant-- Chief Shirell Parfait Dardar. Working with USDA to have soft shell crabbing recognized as a farming entity through their "Eat for Health" campaign.
Julie Anderson will provide information back to the task force about aquaculture law changes.
- C. Crab Trap Theft and letter to District Attorneys-LDWF
Keith Watts said that it is not only crab trap theft but also harvesting from closed areas. Ashley Roth will draft letter for District Attorneys and Jubal Marceaux and his staff will follow-up with Attorneys.

VI. New Business

- A. Professionalism Program- Thomas Hymel
Thomas Hymel presented to the group and Laquita Meek and Trudy Luke will be the CTF representatives on the Advisory committee for the program.
- B. Key handling and Quality Impacts on Louisiana blue crab and fishermen- Jon Bell

- C. Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board update- Keith Watts
- D. 2014 Legislative Session---begins March 10, Damon Morris with LDWF Sustainability addressed the group and informed them of the changes that the department will be seeking to change in Section 638 title 56

MSC Resolution- Motion to support the MSC resolution presented by LDWF (attached to the minutes here). Motion by Donnye Bourn, second by Pete Gerica. A roll call vote was called and the Motion was adopted.

Chalin Delaune requested an updated stock assessment from what was provided at the last meeting.

Disease Research Funding—Dr. Julie Anderson presented to the group

Motion by Pete Gerica to ask the department if the Derelict Crab Account can be used to fund research, second by Eric Blanchard. Motion adopted.

Election of Officers

Chairman— nomination for Pete Gerica to be chairman, second by Rodney Parfait, Motion adopted.

Vice Chair---- Chalin Delaune and Keith Watts were nominated, Chalin Delaune received the majority of votes.

Public Comment- March 12 and 13 2014 Fisheries Summit

Set Next Meeting- Tuesday, February 11 in New Orleans at 1:30

Adjourn- Motion by Eric Blanchard to adjourn, second by Pete Gerica. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

MSC Resolution

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Resolution of Support for Sustainability Certification of Louisiana Blue Crab

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Blue Crab fishery is one of the largest fisheries by volume and value in the state and in the Gulf of Mexico Region, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 stock assessment of the Louisiana blue crab fishery is the best available information on the stock status, using fisheries independent and dependent data collected through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Blue Crab Stock Assessment establishes conservation benchmarks for overfishing and overfished status for the blue crab fishery, and

WHEREAS, actions taken by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will assist in maintaining the blue crab fishery within the conservation standards as described in the Louisiana assessment, and

WHEREAS, maintaining a healthy blue crab stock is in the best interests of the State of Louisiana as it provides sustainable harvest levels and improves economics within the fishery, and

WHEREAS, sustainability certification standards for fisheries require specific management harvest control rules in response to overfishing or overfished stocks, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56.6(25a) provides the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission with authority to set seasons, times, places, size limits, quotas, daily take, and possession limits, based upon biological and technical data, for all wildlife and fish, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby accept and endorse the Louisiana Blue Crab Stock Assessment as the best available information on the fishery, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the fishing mortality or exploitable biomass exceed the overfished or overfishing limits, or exceed the targets for three consecutive years, as defined in the most current Louisiana blue crab stock assessment, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall come before the Commission with an updated assessment and a series of management options for the Commission to review and act upon, intended to keep the fishery from becoming overfished, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that management options for review and action shall include provisions for emergency closures, time based closures and spatial closures.

Ronald "Ronny" Graham, Chairman